(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The following important schemes, viz. Development of Marine Fisheries Motorisation of traditional crafts & Reimbursement of Central Excise duty on HSD Oil; Development of Freshwater Aquaculture; Integrated Coastal Aquaculture; National Welfare of Fishermen; Fishing Harbour Facilities at Major and Minor Ports; and Fisheries Training and Extension, are being implemented for development of Fisheries in the country.

(b) and (c)Yes, Sir.

(i) A proposal was received from State Government of Bihar for construetion of houses for fishermen for which an amount of Rs. 47.54 lakhs has been released to the Government of Bihar in July, 2001 as Central share of subsidy.

(ii) A sum of Rs. 6.00 lakhs was released to Bihar in 1997-98 for training of 150 fish farmers and setting up of training centres. A gain in 2000-01, a sum of Rs. 3.00 lakhs was released to the State for training of 113 fish farmers.

(d) and (e) No proposals from Bihar are pending. Releases towards Central share are made to the States depending on the physical and financial progress with regard to the funds already made available to them.

Drop in oilseeds production

2742. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether oilseeds production during the current year has dropped, in comparison to 1998-99;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to arrest alarming dependence on imported oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) and (b)The oilseeds prodction during the year 1998-99, 1999-2000 & 2000-01 is given below:

Year	Production (million tonnes)
1998-99	24.75
1999-2000	20.87
2000-2001	18.20 (Advance estimates)

The fall in production during 1999-2000 & 2000-01 was due to severe drought prevailing in the major oilseeds producing States.

(c) The Technology Mission on Oilseeds which was set up in 1986, has launched a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) in 28 States covering 407 selected districts in the country to increase the production & the productivity of oilseeds. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided on various inputs like production and distribution of seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of improved farms implements, sprinkler sets, rhizobium culture and PSB/micro nutrients etc. In order to disseminate the production technology amongst farmers, frontline demonstrations are organised by the I.C.A.R. Besides, block and integrated pest management demonstrations are organised through State Department of Agriculture. A new component of crash programme for quality seed production of groundnut and soyabean has also been introduced during the Ninth Plan. In order to meet the demand of seed during natural calamities, a seed bank programme has also been introduced during the Ninth Plan.

In order to ensure the remunerative prices for oilseed growers, the Government has been announcing the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for oilseeds every year. In case the market prices fall below the MSP, NAFED carries-out purchase operation of oilseeds.

The Government has also increased the import duty on different edible oils w.e.f. 1.3.2001 to protect the interest of indigenous oilseed growers.

Relief to farmers against natural calamities

†2743. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the crops of farmers throughout the country are destroyed every year by natural calamities;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any effective steps to provide relief to the farmers distressed under these circumstances;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.